

ORIGINAL



**Arizona Corporation Commission**

**Docket No. L-00000F-09-0190-00144 Case #144 - Vail to Valencia Public Comment**

Please view comments given to Tucson Electric Power at the Rosemont Mine Transmission Line Project Open House in Vail at Acacia Elementary on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2009. (2 days after VUSD students returned from Spring Break). I have the same concerns regarding the Vail Substation now. Additionally, the Vail to Kantor line currently does not exist, but it will if the CEC is issued in Line Site Case 14

My name is Charlotte Cook and I live in Vail, Arizona. I have serious concerns about using the Vail Substation to support this mine. It is already overloaded, we have way to many wires going into and out of it.

I am writing to ask you to please consider the ecologically, environmentally, culturally sensible route than the east side of the Santa Rita's. Science Highway 83 does not need to have 138-kV transmission lines or view of a substation on the side (or top) of the Santa Rita's. If an eastern route is selected to support Rosemont, local opposition will be extremely significant and should tie this project up in courts for decades to come.

Will the proposed 46-kV to 138-kV upgrade through Box Canyon to Greaterville use the same route as it does now? How will you reduce the visibility of these poles and please use galvanized steel with sky backgrounds?

And also, has the Forest Service approved any transmission line corridors or routes to Greaterville and then to the Rosemont Mine on Forest Service lands? What process will the Forest Service use to site on their land?

Also along the east side is the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, Biological Core Management Area and the Important Riparian Area. Would any of these transmission lines be running across state land through these important area? We need to protect the view shed and adverse affects on this critical area.

We need some questions answered. More information is needed to be addressed to the public. Will the ACC issue a certification of environmental compatibility (CEC) in the National Forest area or is that a separate process?

We must save existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures and Native American archaeological and cultural sites in the vicinity of these lines. These huge transmission lines would harm views and lower property values when within several miles of housing developments.

Below I have listed some cumulative impacts in or proposed along Hwy 83 that must be considered when conducting your reviews for the ACC CEC. These subjects all must be addressed so that a comprehensive picture of cumulative impacts on all of these is know before you start any work. The addition of air, land and water impacts from each of the below MUST be provided, not only for the present, but include the environmental impacts after the Rosemont mine is fully operational.

1) Proposed Rosemont Mining Project

2) Proposed Cal Portland Cement Mine

3) Proposed Charles Seel Mining Co.

4) W. R. Henderson (Andrada) Quarry at Wentworth and Sahaurita

5) Watershed issues (with proposed mines) to consider both impacts on quality and quantity of water

Arizona Corporation Commission

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- 6) El Paso Natural Gas Line
- 7) Kinder Morgan Liquid Products Pipeline
- 8) Historic Pioneer and Native American cultural resource and Artifacts
- 9) Historic Andrada Ranch is in proximity
- 10) Bar V Ranch - Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan for Pima County
- 11) Riparian Area - designated IRA (Important Riparian Area)
  - a) Several wildlife corridors, plant and animal habitats
  - b) High biological significance areas containing habitat for vulnerable species
- 12) View shed impairment
- 13) Scenic Hwy 83 visibility and transportation impacts when constructing and later
- 14) Cienega Creek (which is also designated by ADWR as an Outstanding Waters
- 15) Davidson Canyon is the largest drainage into the Cienega Creek and has received Outstanding Waters Way
- 16) Diverse flora and fauna
- 17) Cumulative economic property value losses w/3 new mines in the area
- 18) Loss to Heritage and Eco-Tourism revenue from birders, guest ranches, hikers, hunters, and others who come to southern Arizona to enjoy our unique and beautiful area
- 19) Missile Silos
- 20) Other agriculture lands and abandoned and operational mines off Mash Station Road and Old Sonoita Hwy
- 21) TEP services including know changes to support these mining projects
- 22) 3 - 4 Housing developments in the immediate 10/83 interchange
- 23) Rural response time in the area (fire and police and limited cell service)
- 24) Arizona Trail impacts

On the east of Sahuartia is the Scientific U of A Experimental Station, this pristine area has been doing research for 100 years. How will this impact the desert research for the future?

Will TEP generators be providing all the electricity power to the Rosemont mine? TEP is 95% coal-powered; this would add much more air that has been polluted to serve electricity for the Rosemont mine. The environmental effect of Mercury and other toxic and cancer causing pollutants are significant concerns. Once in the soil and water their presence is essentially irreversible. Below I have attached a article about coal powered plants and mercury pollution.

How much ground water will be used to generate the electricity for use by Rosemont and where will this electricity be generated? Who is supplying the water for these generators? I believe that TEP should be required to use only CAP water for making steam and for cooling instead of using any ground water at the Irvington Coal-Powered Plant. We do not need to be using any of our ground water to provide any electricity for Rosemont.

Also, the Rosemont mine itself should also be restricted to using CAP water only. How much electricity will be used just to pump CAP water up hill to the mine and how much electricity for the mining operations? Can renewable (solar or wind) be used in the vicinity of the mine so less electricity is required to be transmitted via high voltage lines to the mine?

Why couldn't TEP just use a short transmission line from Rosemont to the Helevicia mine just a few miles a way? I see that line going down Santa Rita Road. Can it also be used for Rosemont. Isn't this the easiest answer?

Could a local natural gas generator, using gas from a pipe connecting the El Paso Gas Line near I-10, be used near the Rosemont substation site so that no transmission lines are required? Could Rosemont use solar power/solar powered generator? This would be less air pollution, use less water, and not put excess demands on local Tucson Electric Power generation or require more and higher cost electricity to be imported for the Tucson area and this mine. And this will have less taxes on the locals.

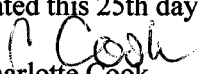
I believe that TEP and Rosemont are putting the cart before the horse. Rosemont is NOT a done deal. When does Rosemont require electricity since it does not have any permits from the Forest Service?

Another item, the TEP mail flyer (received) and article in the newspaper (printed) and the meeting are all during Vail School's Spring Break and a lot of people are out of town on vacation time. It seems that everyone that I have tried to contact is gone. This kind/type of tricks has been done in the Vail area several times before, the Rosemont meetings, and the other TEP substations that Elizabeth Webb worked so hard on to stop off of Old Sonoita Hwy and relocate in the Vail area.

I would really appreciate someone to write me answers to my comments, as I know many of my neighbors have the same questions. I hope your answers will help us understand your positions.


March 16<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Sincerely,  
Charlotte Cook  
Vail, AZ 85641  
ccook520@aol.com

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Thank you,  
Dated this 25th day of May 2009  
  
Charlotte Cook  
16755 Old Sonoita Highway  
Vail, AZ 85641

Pursuant to AAC R14-3-204  
Original and 25 copies of the foregoing are filed with  
Docket Control (25 copies)  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2927

<http://www.enn.com/pollution/article/39357/print>

 <http://www.co2stats.com/certpro.php?s=1272&ref=http://www.enn.com/pollution/ar>

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From: Organic Consumers Association  
Published February 23, 2009 09:20 AM

# UN Reaches Landmark Agreement to Reduce Global Mercury Pollution

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**Obama Administration Reverses US Position, Takes Leadership Role in Negotiations**

Natural Resources Defense Council, via Common Dreams, February 20, 2009  
[Straight to the Source](#)

WASHINGTON - February 20 - Representatives from more than 140 countries today committed to reduce global mercury pollution, which will help protect the world's citizens from the dangerous neurotoxin. This agreement was propelled by the United States' reversal in policy, which also influenced policy reversals of other countries, including China and India. The announcement is a historic step forward in the fight against mercury pollution, according to scientists and policy experts at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

"This is great news for reducing mercury pollution around the world, and shows a commitment from the Obama Administration to international environmental issues," said Susan Egan Keane, policy analyst for NRDC. "The United States has taken a leadership role that will chart a new course on mercury protections around the world. We have set a strong example that is already influencing others to do the same."

The committed countries will reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury by coordinating global cuts in the use and release of mercury into our air, water and land. The United Nations Environment Program Governing Council, which is meeting this week in Nairobi, Kenya, will now develop a legally binding treaty to be enacted by 2013. The treaty will include actions to reduce global mercury pollution and human exposure to the chemical, by reducing intentional use of mercury in industrial processes and products and reducing emissions from coal plants and smelters. It will also address the problems posed by mercury waste sites.

"Today we have won a momentous human health victory that will reduce illness and save lives both here and abroad," said Keane. "This globally coordinated plan will substantially reduce mercury contamination in fish, prevent the contamination of our water, and shield our children from a dangerous chemical."

**Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin and global pollutant that moves thousands of miles from its original source.** Its travels through air and water, accumulating in large predatory fish, and poisons people mainly through the consumption of contaminated fish, including tuna. It is especially dangerous for pregnant women, babies and small children, as it can gravely impede brain development.

**Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury air emissions worldwide - emitting 50 tons of mercury pollution=2 0every year in the U.S. alone.** As the price of oil has risen,=2 0coal has become a more economically attractive source of energy in countries where it is abundant and inexpensive. Currently, coal-fired power plants supply 75 percent of China's energy; in the ne xt eight years, China was expected to add more than 560 new coal plants - a pace of more than one new plant each week. Chemical manufacturing facilities in the Eu ropean Union, India and China and small-scale gold mines in the developing world are also among the biggest mercury pollution sources.

NRDC has worked to enact mercury protections at the national and globa l levels for decades. NRDC representative Susan Egan Keane is currently in attendance=2 0at the U.N. Environment Program Governing Council meeting in Nairobi, where she is working with the Zero Mercury Working Group, an international coalition of more than 75 public-interest non-gove rnmental organizations worldwide that has been pursuing a legally binding international agreement to reduce mercury pollution for more than five years. Last year, NRDC successfully advocated for a new U.S. ban on the export of mercury, working closely with members of Congress, including the bill's sponsor, then-Senator Obama.

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The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has 1.2 million members and online activists, served from offices in New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Beijing.

**Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**

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